

REMARKS

Status of claims

Claims 1-20 are pending in the above application. Claims 10-20 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-9 stand rejected. Applicants thank the Examiner for the careful consideration of this case, and request reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

103(a) Rejection of Claims 1-9

Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodside et al. (5,972,503) in view of Koleske et al. (3,770,564).

The Examiner states that Woodside et al. teach a moldable pellet comprising an inner fiber material and thermoplastic polymer sheath surround the inner fiber material. The Examiner states that Woodside et al. fail to teach the aspect of employing cellulosic inner material. The Examiner states that Koleske et al. teach that it is known in the art to utilize cellulosic material in pellet-like material. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Koleske et al. in the pellet product of Woodside et al.

Applicants claim (in part):

A moldable pellet...comprising:
an inner cellulosic fiber yarn; and
a thermoplastic polymer sheath surrounding said inner cellulosic yarn.

Koleske et al. teach a composite, laminated article formed of at least one solid substrate including wood, cotton, plywood, paper cellulosic fibers, fabrics, textiles, rubber and various polymers. Koleske et al. teach that an adhesive composition is coated onto the solid substrate (col. 1, lines 57-67 to col. 2, lines 1-59). The heat-activatable adhesive is applied to the substrate by brushing, rolling, extrusion or spraying (col. 8, lines 11-24).

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Nowhere do Koleske et al. teach or suggest that it is known in the art to utilize cellulosic pellet-like material. Koleske et al. specifically teaches a solid substrate (paper, wood, fabrics, textiles) coated with an adhesive. The coated substrate is then laminated.

Further, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to look to the combination of a pellet comprising a reinforcing fiber having a surrounding thermoplastic sheath (as taught in Woodside et al.) and a solid substrate (plywood, paper, sheets, etc.) coated with an adhesive (as taught in Koleske et al.)

One of the criteria for establishing a case of *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the applied references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. As stated above, neither Koleske et al. nor Woodside et al. teach or suggest the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2-9 ultimately depend from claim 1 and contain these limitations thereof. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the 103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

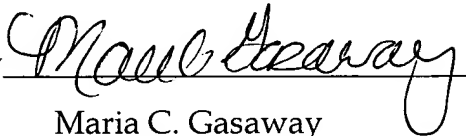
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-9 are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent at (740) 321-7213 if any unresolved matters remain.

If any questions should arise with respect to the above Remarks, or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' agent at the number listed below.

Applicant authorizes any fees required pertaining to this response be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Respectfully submitted,

OWENS-CORNING

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